

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus for receiving related information about contents, comprising:

~~means for obtaining a call sign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the call sign identifies the broadcasting station;~~

transmission means for transmitting user personal information to an external device that provides related information about contents included in broadcast information received by the communication apparatus, in order to request a user registration;

detection means for detecting whether or not said user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when ~~making~~ an access request is made to ~~[[an]]~~ said external device ~~that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station;~~

transmission means for transmitting request information that requests said related information about the contents, ~~[[and]]~~ for transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said detection means detects that said user personal information is not detected by said detection means stored in said storage medium, and for receiving said information in a reply to said available/unavailable request information; and

notification means for notifying information concerning ~~[[a]]~~ the service, providing said related information about the contents, ~~being~~ offered by said external device, ~~and for receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, if said user~~

~~personal information is not detected by said detection means; means for transmitting said call sign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information, wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means; means for receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means; and means for storing said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies whether or not said external device offers the service providing said related information about the contents.

3. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising:

display means for displaying advertisement information to promote said user registration in accordance with a reply to said ~~transmitted~~ available/unavailable request information.

4. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein a URL showing advertisement information to promote said user registration is included in a reply to said ~~transmitted~~ available/unavailable request information.

5. (Previously Presented) The communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said user personal information includes at least name information corresponding to a name of said communication apparatus.

6-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A communication method in a communication apparatus for receiving related information about contents, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~obtaining a callsign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the callsign identifies the broadcasting station;~~

transmitting user personal information to an external device that provides related information about contents included in the broadcast information received by the communication apparatus, in order to request a user registration;

~~detecting whether or not said user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when making an access request is made to [[an]] said external device that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station;~~

~~transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said user personal information [[is]] was not detected in said storage medium in said detecting step;~~

~~receiving ~~available/unavailable~~ said information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in a reply to said available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;~~

~~transmitting said callsign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information;~~

~~wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; storing said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;~~

transmitting request information that requests said related information about the contents; and

notifying information concerning a service, providing said related information about the contents, ~~being~~ offered by said external device.

10-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a communication program for receiving related information about contents, wherein the communication program, when executed by a computer, makes the computer perform a method comprising:

~~obtaining a callsign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the callsign identifies the broadcasting station;~~

transmitting user personal information to an external device that provides related information about contents included in the broadcast information received by the computer, in order to request a user registration;

detecting whether or not said user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when ~~making~~ an access request is made to ~~[[an]]~~ said external device ~~that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station;~~

transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said user personal information ~~[[is]]~~ was not detected in said storage medium in said detecting step;

receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in a reply to said available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected in said storage medium in said detecting step;

~~transmitting said call sign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; storing said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;~~

transmitting request information that requests said related information about the contents; and

notifying information concerning ~~[[a]]~~ said service providing said related information about the contents by said external device.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The communication method according to Claim 9, further comprising:

displaying advertisement information to promote said user registration in accordance with a reply to said ~~transmitted~~ available/unavailable request information.

15. (Currently Amended) The communication method according to Claim 9, wherein a URL showing advertisement information to promote said user registration is included in a reply to said ~~transmitted~~ available/unavailable request information.

16. (Previously Presented) The communication method according to Claim 9, wherein said user personal information includes at least name information corresponding to a name of said communication apparatus.

17. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus, comprising:

a network interface processor configured to transmit user personal information to an external device that provides related information about contents included in broadcast information received by the communication apparatus, in order to request a user registration;
~~obtain a callsign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the callsign identifies the broadcasting station, the processor being~~

a processing unit configured to detect whether or not said user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when ~~making an access request~~ is made to ~~[[an]]~~ said external device, the network interface providing related information about contents broadcast by the broadcasting station, the processor being further configured to transmit available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, ~~configured and~~ to receive available/unavailable said information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in a reply to said available/unavailable request information, ~~configured to transmit said callsign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said~~

~~available/unavailable information, wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, configured to receive registration completed information from said external device, and configured to store said user personal information in said storage medium, if said processing unit detects that user personal information is not detected by said processor stored in said storage medium, the processor network interface being~~ further configured to transmit request information that requests said related information about the contents; and

a notification unit configured to notify information concerning ~~[[a]]~~ the service, providing said related information about the contents, ~~being~~ offered by said external device.

18. (New) The communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:
storage means for storing said user personal information in said storage medium upon a reception of registration completion information.